

Big Bend

Ranger Programs

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park
Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River



December 6 – 12, 2015

Sunday, December 6

3:00 PM Guided Walk – “Our Most Precious Resource” Water brings life to the desert. Join Ranger C. Rinas to learn more about this precious but limited resource. Meet at the Rio Grande Village Nature Trail, across from campsite 18. Water and sun protection recommended. 3/4 mile walk. 1 hour.

Monday, December 7

3:00 PM Discovery Hike – “Beautiful Boquillas” Join Ranger J. Jurado for a hike into Boquillas Canyon to talk about geology, botany, wildlife, human history, and other surprises we might find along the way! Meet at the Boquillas Canyon Trailhead. Bring a hat, water, and hiking shoes. 1 mile round-trip. 1 hour.

Tuesday, December 8

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Soap from Yucca & More!” If you have the knowledge just about everything you need can be obtained from plants. Join Ranger C. Rinas on this easy 0.5 mile walk to learn about some of the traditional uses of plants. Bring water and sun protection. Meet at the Dugout Wells picnic area, 6 miles southeast of Panther Junction. 1/3 mile walk. 45 minutes.

Wednesday, December 9

3:00 PM Guided Walk – “The Birth of the CCC” There was a cry that came from our country in the 1930's; a cry of hunger, poverty, and lack of work. Franklin D. Roosevelt heard this cry and strove to do something about it, creating the Civilian Conservation Corp. Join Ranger K. Eckert to learn more about the creation of the CCC, and see their lasting handiwork here in Big Bend National Park. Meet at the Chisos Basin Trailhead. 1/3 mile walk. Wheelchair accessible. 45 minutes.

Thursday, December 10

7:30 PM Evening Program – “Star-gazing with Binoculars and the Naked Eye” You don't need a telescope to locate and enjoy many of the natural wonders in the night skies over Big Bend National Park. Join Volunteer R. Wonite for a laser-guided tour of the more prominent stars, star clusters and nebulae in the winter sky, weather permitting. Meet at the pullout at Mile 15.3 on the road to Rio Grande Village. Wheelchair accessible. Bring binoculars and/or a chair if you have them. 1 hour.

Friday, December 11

10:00 AM Program – “Scorpions” How is a scorpion like an alligator? What do they have in common with seals? Join Ranger K. Eckert to learn more about scorpions, common misconceptions, and the unusual similarities they have to other species. Meet on the patio outside the Chisos Mountains Lodge. Wheelchair accessible. 45 minutes.

5:15 PM Photography Program – “You're Not Ansel Adams, But You Could Be...” Photography in National Parks can be a rewarding experience, a lasting memory, or just a way to document a place in time. Simple techniques will help you get the most out of your camera, be it digital or film. Regardless of format, the pretty view you're attempting to capture may not be what you think it is... Join Ranger B. Smith for a photographic and resource discussion. Meet at the pull out at mile 15.3 on the road to Rio Grande Village. Bring a camera, tripod, and a chair if you have them. 1 hour.

Saturday, December 12

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “The Way We Walk” Many of us have enjoyed hiking on trails, but have you ever thought about how or why these trails were built? Join Ranger J. Woerner for a closer look at the work and thought behind trail building. Meet at the Chisos Basin Trailhead. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. 1 mile. 45 minutes.

7:30 PM Evening Program – “Big Bend's Top 10” What makes Big Bend special or unique among national parks? Join Ranger J. Jurado for a look at the top ten things Big Bend can boast. Meet at the Rio Grande Village Amphitheater. Wheelchair accessible. Bring a flashlight. 1 hour.